

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNCLASSIFIED

LA/CATF
INCOMING

FRP: .2,3,4. . . .
STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: DONOVA, ODPD-D, ODPN-N, ODPS-S, OGI/VIP/MP,
OGITNATAB1, OGITNATAB2, OPCTR/EALA, OPCTR/TERR, RF, FILE, LA/CATF-3,
ALA/CR-2, ALA/ES-3, ALA/G-2, ALA/HO-2, ALA/MC/D, ALA/MC/E1, ALA/MC/M1,
ALA/MC/M2, ALA/MC/PME, ALA/MC/RAE, ALA/N-2, ALA/P-2, ALA/PO/LA, CR/W,
D/DMS-3, EPD/LA, EPS/IG, ICS/HC/LA, NCPM, OGI/GD/AWH, OIA/TWALA,
PPS/AD-2, PPS/PO-2, PPS/SEO-3, (41/W)

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PAGE 001
TOR: 091331Z MAY 85

NC 7250639

PP RUEAIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
STU4750
PP RUEHC RUEHLL
DE RUEHTG #6204 1291324
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 091324Z MAY 85
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1170
RUEDEHA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
RUEBDNA/COMJTF-BRAVO COMAYAGUA HO
RUEHLL/CONTADORA COLLECTIVE
BT
TEGUCIGALPA 06204

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
☒ Release () Exclise () Deny ☒ Declassify
Date 2/22/02 Exemption

E.O. 12356: DECLASSIFIED 5/8/91
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, HO, MARR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER ACCUSES UNITED STATES OF
INVOLVEMENT IN TRAINING OF "DEATH SQUADS"

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT

2. HONDURAN RADIO AND PRESS REPORTED ON MAY 7 THAT
RAMON CUSTODIO, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE
DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONDURAS (CODEH) HAS ACCUSED
THE UNITED STATES OF FORMING AND TRAINING DEATH SQUADS
IN HONDURAS. CUSTODIO, WHO APPEARED WITH ZENAIDA
VELASQUEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF FAMILIES OF
DISAPPEARED PERSONS IN HONDURAS (COFADEH), REFERRED ALSO
TO A MIAMI HERALD ARTICLE OF APRIL 30 WHICH DISCUSSED
THE INVOLVEMENT OF GREEN BERETS IN TRAINING HONDURAN
MILITARY PERSONNEL. HE ACCUSED THE EMBASSY OF KNOWING
OF THE TRAINING AND ACCUSED THE AMBASSADOR SPECIFICALLY
OF PARTICIPATING IN THE FORMATION OF THE SQUADRONS,
FOR WHICH HE (CUSTODIO) REQUESTED AMBASSADOR'S EXPULSION.
IN ADDITION, HE CALLED FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA A
"BAD HONDURAN" FOR HIS EXECUTION OF A FOREIGN POLICY
WHICH RESPONDS TO U.S. INTERESTS

3. CUSTODIO FURTHER ALLEGED THAT THE FORMATION AND
TRAINING OF THE DEATH SQUADS WERE PART OF A JOINT
OPERATION WITH THE CIA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AND RESULTED IN THE DISAPPEARANCES OF 147 PEOPLE.
THE GREEN BERETS, HE CLAIMED, TRAINED HONDURANS AT
THE HONDURAN SPECIAL FORCES BASE AT LA VENTA AND WERE
VISITED BY FORMER ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN. GUSTAVO
ALVAREZ AS WELL AS BY AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL. HE
NAMED BYRON K. CARLISLE AS ONE OF THE SIX AMERICAN
TRAINERS. (CARLISLE WAS ALSO MENTIONED IN THE HERALD
ARTICLE). HE ALSO POINTED TO RICARDO LAU OF THE FDN
AS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS.

4. COMMENT: CUSTODIO APPEARS TO BE RESPONDING TO THE
HERALD ARTICLE WHICH DEALS MAINLY WITH DRUG-RELATED
ACTIVITIES AND MAKES ONLY PASSING REFERENCE TO U.S.
INVOLVEMENT IN AN ELITE "COUNTER-TERRORIST" UNIT CREATED
IN 1982-83.

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85 7250639 SCP PAGE 002 NC 7250639

TOR: 091331Z MAY 85

5. EMBASSY IS USING FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IF ASKED:

QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON THE CHARGE BY RAMON
CUSTODIO THAT THE U.S. SPECIAL FORCES HAVE TRAINED
HONDURAN DEATH SQUADS?

ANSWER: SUCH A CHARGE IS TOTALLY FALSE AND PATENTLY
ABSURD.

QUESTION: HAVE THE U.S. SPECIAL FORCES ENGAGED IN
TRAINING HONDURAN UNITS IN LA VENTIA?

ANSWER: U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ENGAGED IN A NUMBER OF
CLASSIFIED TRAINING ACTIVITIES WITH HONDURANS ABOUT
WHICH, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, WE DO NOT COMMENT.
HOWEVER, IT IS TOTALLY FALSE AND PATENTLY ABSURD
TO SUGGEST THAT WE HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN TRAINING OF
DEATH SQUADS, OR IN ANY WAY WOULD CONDONE SUCH ACTIVITY
AS SUGGESTED BY MR. CUSTODIO.
LOWMAN
END OF MESSAGE

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